United Nations E/2018/NGO/8

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2018

Original: English

**2018 session**
28 July 2017–27 July 2018
Agenda item 5
**High-level segment**

## Statement submitted by Fondation d'entreprise Sanofi espoir, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08683 (E) 110618

Please recycle

## Statement

The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action and provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at large.

A global approach allows for the objectives of every stakeholder's work to be aligned, providing some standardized and normative guidance based on the state of the art. Taking into account local specificities ensures efficiency and sustainability of actions.

Sanofi Espoir believes that combining global and local approaches is a key determinant of success for reaching the SDG. It is not a one-way road (from global to local) but a multi-way process (from global to local, from local to global and from local to local).

Our action in favor of the maternal and newborn health illustrates the synergies created by a multi-way approach.

Between 2010–2017, through the "Midwives for Life" initiative, Sanofi Espoir supported 35 projects in 24 countries. 3,77 million women were monitored, including 1,03 million pregnant women, 7,630 health workers were trained including 3,600 midwives. Among the supported projects, 25% were proposed or led by international organizations targeting capacity building of nurses or midwives. From our experience, projects led by global organization are aligned with international standards, but do not always integrate the local context. On the other side, local projects or community-based projects better integrate local needs and context but suffer from a lack of monitoring and evaluation.

In 2014, Sanofi Espoir launched the "Midwives for Life Awards" to reward initiatives carried out by local midwives in developing countries. Twenty awards were granted. Among the awardees, some led to the creation of mobile Apps for midwives and women, which are available in different languages allowing their use in different countries:

- "Universal Women" gives technology support and advice to midwives participating in multi-country twinning projects.
- "Happy Baby, Healthy Mom" provides nutritional advice for pregnant women to help them to avoid becoming overweight during pregnancy, as this can cause various health problems for them and their baby.
- "Twin to Twin", dedicated to twinning projects, provides a support network that empowers and strengthens midwives with a core value of reciprocity.

These mobile applications are free and can be downloaded using a smart phone. In the maternal and newborn context, the e-projects are not limited to improving access to knowledge and capacity of health professionals. They lead to a reduction of their isolation in the rural or remote areas.

Combining local and global expertise provides adequate support to empower local actors and ensure effective demonstration for sustainable development. In addition, dissemination of information about successful local initiatives and building upon these initiatives to scale them up is important. Starting from scratch when local pilots exist is not efficient.

The United Nations System is in a unique position to encourage, in accordance with SDG 17, not only partnerships from global to local but a multi-way approach (global to local, local to local, local to global), which will produce better and sustainable results for people everywhere.